

contained nearly fledged young. It would not have been discovered but for the twittering of the nestlings when being fed by the parent bird. The nest was merely a few straws in a depression of the ground in the middle of a large tuft of "bunch grass."—W. J. HOXIE, *Savannah, Ga.*

**Pomarine Jaeger Capturing a Phalarope.**—An interesting account of a Pomarine Jaeger capturing and devouring a Phalarope has just been presented to me by a friend, Mr. Allan Moses of Grand Manan, N. B. Mr. Moses and his family for three generations have been taxidermists and students of ornithology and I have always found their observations accurate and their accounts reliable. Mr. Moses was fishing several miles off shore at the time and apparently there were numerous Northern Phalaropes in the vicinity. He writes: "I saw something last Friday that I never saw or knew anything about before. I saw a Pomarine Jaeger catch a phalarope. There was a pair of the jaegers. The female started after the phalaropes and chased them a long time. They were too smart for her, and after a long chase, she separated out one, and then the male gave chase, and in a few minutes with the two chasing the little fellow, one caught him within a hundred yards of the vessel; then they both lighted in the water and ate him."

This letter was dated May 31, and "last Friday" would be the twenty-sixth, making the date of the observation, May 26, 1911.—ALBERT W. TUTTLE, *Boston, Mass.*

**Egrets (*Herodias egretta*) in Massachusetts.**—On August 9, 1911, I secured an Egret from a flock of six on the Eastham Marshes of Cape Cod. The birds had been feeding far out on the open mud flats, but luckily for me approached some "hummocks" of grass behind which I was able to stalk them. Mr. Matthew Luce, who has a house commanding a fine view of the marsh, had been seeing them intermittently since about July 21, and on several occasions approached within a few yards of them. Walter Nickerson, the game warden, had also been watching them and said they always roosted together in a certain tree at a nearby Night Heron colony.—STANLEY COBB, *Milton, Mass.*

**The Egret in Plymouth County, Mass.**—On July 27, 1911, I saw two Egrets (*Herodias egretta*) in the salt marsh near the mouth of North River, which is the boundary between the towns of Marshfield and Scituate on the south shore of Massachusetts. They were catching fish, and permitted a fairly near approach. Neither had plumes. They were still at North River on August 6.

On July 30 I saw an Egret in the southern part of the town of Plymouth. This bird was catching frogs and fish at a small pond but a short distance from farm buildings. When I startled him, he flew up into a hillside pasture close by. The tall white wader presented a striking and unique

appearance as he stood up "straight as a major" in the huckleberry bushes on the hot sunny hillside. He was quite fearless and soon flew down to resume feeding in the ditch of a near-by cranberry bog.

On July 22 Mr. F. D. Lyon of Halifax saw at a pond-bottom in his town another Egret which, like the three birds already noted, was plumeless.

Thus within 10 days four Egrets were noted in Plymouth County, at points rather widely separated, the North River being over 25 miles from the South Plymouth pond and over 12 miles from the Halifax pond-bottom, while this latter point is over 20 miles from the south Plymouth locality. Halifax lies eight miles inland; the South Plymouth pond is within two or three miles of the sea.

I am informed on good authority that an Egret was seen about 10 years ago at North River. Mr. Thomas W. Graves of Plymouth tells me that he also saw an Egret at Yarmouth on Cape Cod a number of years ago. This bird had the plumes.—J. A. FARLEY, *Plymouth, Mass.*

**The Egret at Marshfield, Massachusetts.**—The town of Marshfield is situated about thirty miles southeast of Boston bordering on Massachusetts Bay. There is a considerable stretch of salt marshes with a number of small ponds or pools scattered here and there. It is an ideal place for water birds.

On July 30, 1911, in company with Mr. Joseph A. Hagar of Marshfield and Mr. Harold D. Mitchell of Newtonville, I observed a pair of Egrets (*Herodias egretta*) feeding in one of the numerous pools on the marshes at Marshfield. We first saw them from a hill about three-quarters of a mile away. Under the cover of bushes and stone-walls we approached to within about four hundred feet, then, at times crawling flat on our stomachs, Mr. Hagar and I gained the shelter of a blind, not over two hundred feet away from the birds.

With the Egrets was a Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias herodias*) which remained perfectly motionless on the bank, while the others were nervously moving about. Comparing them with the Blue Heron, they appeared to be rather smaller; in form similar, but more slender, especially the neck. The entire plumage was pure white, the bill bright yellow, and the legs and feet black. When they saw that they were observed they became very restless and shy and kept walking up and down the bank with quick, graceful steps. One was always on watch while the other was preening its plumage or catching fish. Several times they ran quickly towards each other and with outstretched wings, and in a rather ludicrous manner, bobbed, bowed and touched their bills together. At this time we thought that we saw two or three "aigrette" plumes on the back of one of the Egrets, but of this we were not certain. They were altogether silent while we were near.

Their movements and flight were more graceful and agile than those of the Blue Heron and their snow-white plumage showed up very plainly